

Serial No.: 09/859,576
Docket No.: 28951.1077A

REMARKS

Claims 1-8, 11-14, 35 and 36, as amended, remain pending.

Applicant notes and thanks the Examiner for acknowledgment of the allowable subject matter in claims 2 and 4.

Applicant believes that this amendment places this application fully in condition for allowance, and surely places it in better condition for any appeal. Accordingly, entry of this amendment and allowance of all claims 1-8, 11-14, 35 and 36 are respectfully requested.

1. Claims 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) over Tewfik et al. U.S. Patent 6,226,387. Claims 7 and 8 are amended to depend from claim 1.

Tewfik discloses a method and apparatus for scene-based video watermarking. However, Tewfik does not disclose that the watermark data embedded in a second signal component is position data related to the first watermark. Thus, Tewfik does not disclose embedding position information, which specifies the position where the secret information is embedded, in a second signal component of said color image signal as claimed by applicant.

For all of the forgoing reasons, Tewfik does not disclose all elements of applicant's claimed invention and therefore is not a proper basis for a §102(a) rejection thereof. Nor is there any disclosure or teaching in Tewfik that would have suggested applicant's claimed invention. Thus reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection, and allowance of claims 7 and 8 are respectfully requested.

2. Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 11-14, 35 and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Tewfik and Rhoads U.S. Patent 5,636,292.

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Tewfik discloses a method and apparatus for scene-based video watermarking. In Tewfik, successive frames are extracted from video data. These frames are segmented into blocks which are altered in the frequency domain with a mask. These blocks then are transformed back to the spatial domain where they are altered further with a spatial mask. Tewfik's watermarks embedded in motion frames are highly localized in time and change rapidly from frame to frame. Tewfik discloses only that a temporary low pass frame and high pass frame are watermarked; see col. 4, lines 18-35. Thus, Tewfik does not disclose that the color image signal comprises a plurality of color components, and that said second signal component is a different color component from said first signal component as claimed by applicant. Tewfik also does not disclose a two step method and apparatus therefor of embedding secret information as claimed by applicant: the first step being to embed information in a prescribed position in an input signal; and the second step being to embed position information, which specifies the position where said secret information is embedded, in position in said input signal different from said prescribed position.

Rhoads does not supply what is missing in Tewfik. Rhoads discloses methods for embedding an imperceptible identification code in a source signal, but does not disclose that the color image signal comprises a plurality of color components, and that said second signal component is a different color component from said first signal component as claimed by applicant. Also, Rhoads discloses only that the amplitude of the embedded signal carries the position information relevant to the embedded n bit code word. Thus, Rhoads also does not disclose a two step method and apparatus therefor of embedding secret information as claimed by applicant: the first step being to

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embed information in a prescribed position in an input signal; and the second step being to embed position information, which specifies the position where said secret information is embedded, in position in said input signal different from said prescribed position.

For all of the foregoing reasons, there is no disclosure or teaching in either of Tewfik or Rhoads that would have suggested applicant's claimed invention to one of ordinary skill in this art. Further, there is no disclosure or teaching in either Tewfik or Rhoads that would have suggested the desirability of combining any portions thereof effectively to anticipate or suggest applicant's claimed invention. Withdrawal of this rejection of claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 11-14, 35 and 36, and allowance of the same are therefore respectfully requested.

Accordingly, the application is now in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested. The PTO is hereby authorized to charge/credit any fee deficiencies or overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-4293 (Order No. 28951.1077). If further amendments would place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is invited to call applicant's undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,

STEPTOE & JOHNSON LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Parkhurst", written over the printed name of Roger W. Parkhurst.

Roger W. Parkhurst, Reg. No. 25,177
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